

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 42, 47-49, 51, 53 and 55-59 are pending, with claims 33, 37-39 and 41 cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, by the present amendment. Claims 42 and 51 are independent.

In the Official Action, claims 33, 37-39, 41, 42, 47-49, 51, 53, 54 and 55-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanizawa (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0205711) in view of Vaudo (U.S. Patent No. 6,440,823). The above rejections are respectfully traversed.

In the Advisory Action of November 23, 2011, claims 42, 47-49, 51, 53 and 55-59 were indicated as allowable.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicant does not agree with the rejection of previously pending claims 33, 37-39 and 41 at least for the reasons described in Applicant's correspondence of November 7, 2011. Nonetheless, claims 33, 37-39 and 41 are cancelled so that claims 42, 47-49, 51, 53 and 55-59 may proceed toward allowance. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more continuation applications directed to the subject matter of previously pending claims 33, 37-39 and 41. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests an expedited issuance of a Notice of Allowance regarding claims 42, 47-49, 51, 53 and 55-59.

CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael E. Monaco, Reg. No. 52,041, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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